

Diary Dates

Parish Pastoral Team

The next meeting for the Parish Pastoral Team is on Thursday 8th January 2026 in the Parish Centre. The team will soon be keeping us up to date with events in the newsletter.

Christmas Raffle

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations and support of the raffle and tombola. We raised £340 towards Parish Funds. Congratulations to Madeleine Galloway who was the winner of the large hamper. There are also smaller prizes for Martin Coley and Clare Bloor which are at the back of St. Mary's awaiting your collection.

January Community Lunch

The next community lunch will be on **Monday January 19th** after midday mass. Please sign the list at church by Sunday January 11th if you would like to join us. No charge for the meal but donations towards the costs are welcome.

Eucharistic Ministers

Please can all parishioners currently serving as Eucharistic Ministers at any Mass fill out their details on the list the back of Church. Fr Vijay would like to arrange a meeting with everyone to look at how best to organise the rota.

Caritas Christmas Appeal

There will be a basket at the back of church for the next two weeks in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal. Through your generosity, Caritas is able to accompany individuals and families across our Diocese who are facing hardship, offering crisis food vouchers, practical help, and the assurance that they are not alone.

Donations may also be made via the QR code (see poster at the back) and online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk

If you know someone in need of support, please contact **Trish Spencer, Deputy CEO, Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury**.

Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team Vacancy

Vacancies have arisen within the Shrewsbury YMT for a Programme Coordinator, Youth Mission Team Member and an Admin Assistant. Further details can be found on the Diocesan Website. <https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/latest-vacancies/> Interested? send your CV to Pauline McCulloch recruitment@dioceseofshrewsbury.org if interested. Closing date Friday 23 January 2026.

MASS READINGS

THIS WEEK

Monday, December 29th 2025

- **First Reading:** 1 Colossians 1:24-29
- **Gospel:** Luke 22:24-30

Tuesday, December 30th 2025:

- **First Reading:** 1 John 2:12-17
- **Gospel:** Luke 2:36-40

Wednesday, December 31st

- **First Reading:** 1 John 2:18-21
- **Gospel:** John 1:1-18

Thursday, January 1st 2026

- **First-Numbers** 6:22-27, **Second**-Gal 4:4-7
- **Gospel:** Luke 2:16-21

Friday, January 2nd 2026

- **First Reading:** 1 John 2:22-28
- **Gospel:** John 1:19-28

Saturday, January 3rd 2026

- **First Reading:** 1 John 2:29-3:6
- **Gospel:** John 1:29-24

A Big thank you to our
Newsletter
sponsors this month
David and Helen Duffy
From CheshireONE Radio



Tune in on your DAB radio or just ask
your smart speaker to play
CheshireONE radio



December 28th

St Mary's
Roman Catholic Church
Middlewich.
&
St Margaret's
Holmes Chapel

NEWSLETTER

Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Vijay Bhupathi

Tel:07836 614 833,

2 New King Street, Middlewich

Rev. Deacon Tony Ford:

Tel:07918 912 195

email: stmarysrcmiddlewich@gmail.com

Newsletter email: smrcnewsletter@icloud.com

Christmastide

Fr. Vijay's reflection for Christmastide

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

As we gather on this Sunday within the Christmas season, we celebrate the **Holy Family of Nazareth**, our model of faith, love, and unity. In a world where families come in many shapes and stories, today's feast reminds us that God dwells in the ordinary rhythms of family life – in patience, forgiveness, shared meals, quiet sacrifices, and the courage to begin again. This celebration invites every household in our parish to rediscover the grace of being a family: a place where we learn tenderness, trust, and the art of loving one another as God loves us. May the Holy Family watch over all our homes, especially those facing hardship, separation, or new beginnings. Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Pray for us.

Sacrament of Reconciliation & Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 11.15am - 12.15pm

Parish Contacts

St Mary's Primary School.

Head Teacher

J. McKinley

Tel: 01606 516171

Parish Safeguarding Rep:

Jo Hopton

Tel: 07786 755168

www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk

HR / Administration

Peter de Vere

Tel: 07831893781

Community Focus

Thank You

Fr Vijay would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the Christmas celebrations so special, including the music group, flower organisers, cleaners, altar servers, Ministers of the Word, Ministers of the Eucharist, admin team, tree decorators, sacristans. Your dedication and time has been much appreciated and has helped us all to joyfully focus on the birth of Jesus.

Altar Servers

On the feast day of St. Stephen (Boxing Day) the altar servers celebrated the midday Holy Mass and received a gift of thanks for their commitment to serving the parish.

Parish Finance Advisory Group

The Finance Group will begin to provide an update each month from next year. This will include a summary of income and expenditure. We will also be providing you with an annual financial report.

Newsletter Update

Thank you to all those who have pledged to sponsor our newsletter. We have sponsorship From January to April, June & December.

If your family or business would be interested in sponsoring our newsletter for a month, please contact Peter in the Parish Office.

Sponsorship covers the cost of materials, which allows us to use Parish funds elsewhere for the good of our community. A typical months sponsorship is £60.

Gift Aid

If you currently pay tax, Gift Aiding your donation allows the parish to reclaim 25p from the government for every pound you give. You only need to have paid tax on the donation amount, and there is no additional cost to you.

To register for Gift Aid through the parish, you must be giving by envelope or standing order, and then fill in a simple form. Once registered, we will continue to claim Gift Aid for you unless you tell us otherwise, but if you registered a while ago, it may be as well to check the gift aid status of your donations.

To check or register your gift aid status, request collection envelopes or standing order details, etc., please contact Ken Worthington (07910487815, worthingtonkr@gmail.com).

Food Bank Shortages Long life Milk, Coffee, noodles, Cuppa soup, tinned soup, rice pudding and snacks.

Christmas Prayer

Loving God, during this holy season of Christmas, we ask for your blessing on all families.

Let Mary's openness to your wonderous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you.

Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty.

Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love.

May the grace that encircles the Holy Family widen to embrace all families. Amen



Holy Rosary

Holy Rosary takes place on the following days and times.

Monday on zoom at 10.30am

Wednesday 6.00pm before Holy Mass

Tuesday / Friday after 9.00am Holy Mass

Saturday 10.00am before Holy Mass

If you would like to join the rosary group of St. Mary's Parish please put down your name, contact number and email address on the list at the back of Church. Thank you to Madelyn for leading the rosary group. Any parishioners wishing to have a special intention prayed for through the Rosary Group can request prayers through Fr Vijay or the Rosary Group by emailing the office or by sending a message to Madelyn or one of the Rosary members.

What's on in the Parish Centre this week

Day	Activity	Time
-----	----------	------

No groups this week

Day	Times	Mass Intentions	Mass Sunday
Sat. 27/12	10.30am	St John, Ap, Ev Michael Hannon RIP	• First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,12-14
Sat 27/12 (Vigil)	6.30pm	Priest's Intentions	• Responsorial Psalm: Ps.128
Sun 28/12	9.00am	THE HOLY FAMILY Feast - The Parishioners	• Second Reading: Letter to Colossians: 3:12-21
Sun 28/12	11.00am	Hugh Patrick Murray R.I.P. (Birthday Anniv)	• Gospel: Matthew: 2: 13-15,19-23
Mon 29/12	9.00am	Service of the Word & Eucharist (St Thomas Beckett)	
Tues 30/12	9:00am	Peter Cloney (Anniv)	
Wed 31/12	6.30pm	Vigil - Solemnity Mary the Mother of God Rosemary Larkin RIP	
Thurs 1/1	12 Noon	Solemnity Mary the Mother of God (Church) Sheila & Gordon Crouch R.I.P	
Fri 2/1	9.00am	Ss Basil the Great B,D & Gregory Nazianzen B,D The Kelly Family	
Sat 3/1	10.30am	The Most Holy Name of Jesus Mary & John Comer (Wedding Anniv)	
Sat 3/1 (Vigil)	6:30pm	Priest's Intentions	
Sun 4/1	9:00am	Second Sunday after Christmas - The Parishioners	
Sun 4/1	11:00am	Rosemary & Michael Tolkien (Wedding Anniv)	

Anniversaries	Anniversaries	Anniversaries
Patrick Devaney	Maureen O'Brien	Edward King
John Quinn	Edward Marks	Patricia Scott
Ellen Dolan	Patrick Flynn	Don Jones
Delia Sant	Jozef Poziemski	Jane McHugh
Mary Bennion	Sarah Dale	Martin Smith
Frank Meriandelli	Margaret Rafferty	Rev William Grasar
Elizabeth French	John Kelly	Rev Paul Glendinning
Roy Thackwell	John Marmion	Rev David Smith
Domenic Jordan	Kenneth Robinson	Canon Francis McGowan

Parish Office

Office Hours:

Monday / Wednesday
9.30am -12.30

Friday 1pm - 5pm

Please pray for all



Who have died recently, especially:
Clare Fogg, Mike Hough

Who are sick at home and in hospital, especially:
Margaret Strong, Joan Lloyd, Deacon Terry Simms and Sue McNeil